TEXT-BOOK COMMITTEE.

—PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TEXT-BOOK COMMITTEE, HELD IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION IN MYSORE, BANGALORE, ON MONDAY THE 19TH NOVEMBER 1928, AT 12 NOON.

Present.

1 Mr. N. S. Subba Rao, M.A. (CANTAB), BAR-AT-LAW (President).
2 Dr. S. Paul Chinnappa, M.A., L.T., Ph.D.
3 Mr. K. T. Sudarsaniengar, B.A.
4 „ B. Mahomed Beig, B.A.
5 „ R. Jagannatha Rao, B.A., L.T.
6 Sri Srirangamma, B A.
7 Mr. Aga Abbas Shoostery.
8 Pandit R. Ananthakrishna Sarma.
9 Mr. M. Gulam Ahmed Kalami.
10 Miss. M. L. Butler, B.A.
11 Pandit C. Gurusantha Sastry.
12 Sri Kanakalakshamma, M.A.
13 Mr. A. R. Krishna Sastry, M.A.
14 „ K. N. Kini, M.A.
15 Miss. Z. Lazarus, B.A., L.T.
16 Mr. M. Davud, B.A.
17 „ R. Narasimha Char, M.A.
18 „ P. M. Somasundaram Pillai, M.A., L.T.
19 „ B. Puttaiya, B.A.
20 Mr. K. H. Ramaiya, B.A., BAR-AT-LAW.
21 Mr. K. Sampathgiri Rao, M.A.
22 Mr. S. Sivaraman, M.A., L.T.
23 Dr. M. A. Sampathkumaran, M.A., Ph.D.
24 Mr. C. Subba Rao, M.A.
25 „ S. G. Sastry, B.A., M.Sc.
26 Pandit T. Srinivasaraghavachar.
27 Mr. B. Venkatanaranappa, M.A.
28 „ D. Venkataramaiya, B.A., L.T.
29 „ M. Venkatasubbaiya, B.A.
30 „ T. S. Venkannaiya, M.A.
31 „ H. K. Veerabasavaiya, B.A., B.L.
32 Miss. C. E. Parsons.
33 Mr. M. Venkatesa Iyengar, M.A.
34 „ M. S. Basavalingaiya, M.A., LL.B.
35 „ A. Aziz Khan, M.Sc., B.T.
36 „ A. N. Narasimhia, B.A., L.T. (Secretary).

Absent.

1 Mr. P. S. Annaji Rao, M.A., B.L.
2 Miss. M. C. Albuquerque, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., ETC.
3 Mr. C. R. Narayana Rao, M.A., L.T.
4 „ B. Venkatesa Char, M.A.
5 The Rev. W. E. Tomlinson.
6 Mr. M. T. Narayana Iyengar, M.A.
7 „ K. Krishna Rao, B.A., L.T.
8 „ K. Srinarasimhaiya, M.A., L.T.
9 „ M. S. Mohiyuddin, M.A., LL.B., M.Ed.

Messrs. M. S. Mohiyuddin, K. Srinarasimhaiya, K. Krishna Rao and C. R. Narayana Rao wrote letters regretting their inability to attend the meeting of the Text-Book Committee.

I. Reports for 1927-28 *of the Text-Book Committee and of its Sub-Committees.*

Mr. Kalami said that some effort should be made to translate into Urdu the Kannada books on Free-hand Drawing, Business Organisation, Artificial Flower Making, Social Life and Hindudesada Charitre, parts 1 and 2.

The President promised to take up this question very early.

Mr. Kalami's suggestion that the gist of the discussions should be reported in the proceedings was noted for future action.

Mr. K. H. Ramaiya referring to the Annual Report of the Religious and Moral Instruction Sub-Committee said that there should be some kind of Religious and Moral Instruction in Schools. He suggested that qualified persons like the Swamis of the Ramakrishna Mission might be requested to lecture at least for half an hour every week to students in all the schools.

Mr. D. Venkataramaiya replied that the Board of Education had formulated a scheme on the subject and that the Religious and Moral Instruction Sub-Committee had given its opinion thereon recently.

The Secretary said that the Board of Education had arranged for the preparation of text-books on Religious and Moral Instruction and that the matter might be allowed to lie over till these books were published.

The President said that he would take up the matter very early.

In reply to the question of Mr. S. G. Sastry and Miss. M. L. Butler, the Secretary stated that the manuscripts sent by Miss. M. L. Butler had been returned by the Religious and Moral Instruction Sub-Committee with the remark that it was impossible to accept the manuscripts until the completely written work was made available.

After a few questions of Mr. B. Venkatanaranappa were answered, the Report on the work of the Text-Book Committee for 1927-28 was unanimously adopted.

II. Study of a book on Mysore History, etc., in the schools.

The Special Committee appointed by the Text-Book Committee to examine the question had submitted its report which was published as Appendix C of the Secretary's Report.

Mr. Kalami suggested that it would be better, if these books could be in the form of Readers in Kannada and Urdu. Mr. B. Puttaiya wanted the subject matter to be the same in all the three books, but the treatment should vary with the standards. Mr. B. Venkatanaranappa pointed out that it was not possible to include all the subjects in the limited space allotted for each book. Mr. R. Jagannatha Rao said that there was inconsistency between paras 4 and 6 of the report and wanted to know whether the proposed book should replace the History and Geography book now taught in the Primary Schools. Mr. M. Venkatesa Iyengar stated in reply that Mysore History and Mysore Geography now taught would be superseded by History and Geography of Mysore given in this book plus portions in Indian History.

Mr. Kini wanted to know whether this subject was to be a subject for the examination and whether the medium of instruction in this subject would be English, as per Government Order in respect of instruction in High Schools.

Mr. Venkatesa Iyengar said that since it was not an examination subject, the same might be taught in Kannada and even the Government Order could be modified.

There was some discussion as to whether this should be made an examination subject and whether the subject should be taught in Kannada or English in the High Schools, in which Dr. S. P. Chinnappa and Dr. M. A. Sampathkumaran and Messrs. B. Venkatanaranappa, K. N. Kini, K. H. Ramaiya, B. Puttaiya, H. K. Veerabasavaiya, Aga Abbas Shoostery, S. G. Sastry, K. Sampathgiri Rao, M. Venkatasubbaiya, R. Jagannatha Rao, M. Venkatesa Iyengar and Miss. C. E. Parsons took part.

The President put to vote the proposition whether this should be made an examination subject. Twenty members voted for the proposition and 11 were against it.

Then the language in which it should be taught in High Schools was considered.

Mr. Kini wanted that Kannada should be the medium of the instruction in this subject for High School Classes also. Mr. S. G. Sastry invited the attention of the Committee to Mr. C. R. Reddy's Convocation Address, wherein he advocated the teaching of some subjects in the University in the Vernacular.

At this stage Sri Srirangamma suggested that biographies of women also might be added. The phrase "Biographies of men" in the syllabus was permitted to be changed into "Great Personages."

It was resolved unanimously that the medium of instruction with regard to this subject be Kannada and Urdu in Primary, Middle and High School Classes.

The President then asked the Committee to consider whether the work of preparing these books should be entrusted to one person or a Board of Editors. After some discussion, it was unanimously resolved that a Board of Editors consisting of specialists in different subjects and Kannada Scholars be appointed to prepare these books, under the supervision of a Chief or General Editor and that other details of the scheme be left to the Department for action.

III. Resolution No. 3 adopted at the last Annual Meeting of the Text-Book Committee and the opinions of the several Sub-Committees thereon.

"That in the Publication of books for being prescribed as text books in future, special attention be paid to freedom from mistakes of all kinds, neatness of get-up and provision for a sufficient number of neat illustrations where they may be necessary, undue importance to cheapness in prices being avoided."

The opinions of the several Sub-Committees on this resolution were published as appendix D in the Secretary's Report.

The President pointed out that most of the members were in favour of the recommendations of the several Sub-Committees and promised that the department would, as far as possible, act according to these suggestions, at the earliest possible opportunity.

IV. Revision of the form of review of books received for patronage.

The President invited the attention of the Committee to the opinions of the several Sub-Committees on this topic and said that since all except two of the Sub-Committees had approved the form of review as revised by the Kannada Sub-Committee with the addition of another head, "Name of the Author," might be adopted in future. This was agreed to.

V. Report of the Publications Committee.

The President pointed out that the recommendations of the sub-committee were mainly two :—

(*a*) Handing over the publication of text-books to private enterprise and

(*b*) Revision of departmental text-books and preparation of new books.

He suggested that the first recommendation related to a matter of policy and might be left to the Department and the Government to decide. With regard to the second recommendation and the best method of giving effect to it, Mr. D. Venkataramaiya emphasised the necessity for the appointment of a Board or a Committee attached to the office of the Director of Public Instruction (i) to revise the departmental publications from year to year and (ii) to review manuscripts, etc., in consultation with experts or the sub-committees of the Text-Book Committee when received in response to advertisements.

The President enquired if it would not meet the situation if the Text-Book Committee approved lists of books to be revised or to be prepared afresh and left it to the Department to carry out their recommendations.

Mr. S. G. Sastry agreed and suggested the whole work might be left to the Department and that no Committee be appointed for the purpose. This was opposed by Mr. B. Venkatanaranappa as that would be very unsatisfactory. Miss C. E. Parsons suggested the appointment of a Special Committee of 10 experts to constitute a Standing Committee. Mr. Jagannatha Rao complained that the departmental text-books had not been revised for the last 15 or 20 years, and wanted that arrangements should be made for getting our publications revised every three or five years by the author himself, whenever possible, so that the departmental text books might be thoroughly up-to-date. He expressed his opinion that no committee would do the work. The President suggested the appointment of a standing reviser for each book. Mr. R. Jagannatha Rao wanted a paid reviser, so that there might be a continuous agency preferably of the author, which would result in automatic revision before publication. Mr. S. G. Sastry said that the Department must modify the complaints and suggestions received from several persons including Inspecting Officers and teachers, regarding the departmental books and effect improvement in the next edition of these books. He also stated that since a person was not interested in the book of another man, the book when revised must be entrusted to the author himself whenever possible.

Mr. R. Jagannatha Rao in agreeing with Mr. S. G. Sastry proposed that the Secretary of the Text Book Committee should send such collected suggestions to the standing reviser. The President requested Mr. R. Jagannatha Rao to give a note on this subject, for consideration before the next meeting.

It was resolved that a Committee of five be appointed to arrange for the revision of the departmental text books now in use and for the preparation of new books, and that this Central Committee be attached to the Office of the Director of Public Instruction.

The President said that the Committee might also give a programme of work and also suggestions on the Report of the Publication Committee.

VI. Reprinting a three years' supply of Departmental Publications at a time and the opinions of the sub-committees.

After some discussion, the policy of reprinting a three years' supply after revision was approved by the general body, in view of the various facilities and cheapness in prices, etc.,

Mr. B. Venkatanarappa's propositions were then taken up one after another.

VII. Mr. B. Venkatanaranappa moved his first proposition:—

"That the Government be requested to have all the Kannada Text Books intended for school children up to and including the Lower Secondary Standard prepared afresh or suitably revised by Government Agency, with a view to ensure (1) proper standard, (2) uniformity of language, (3) freedom from mistakes of all kinds (4) nice get-up with really good illustrations and (5) cheapness in price and that in the interests of sound education, the practice of throwing open the publication of such books for competition by private agency be requested to be discontinued."

Mr. B. Venkatanaranappa pointed out that the Department seemed to be anxious to encourage private enterprise in the publication of text-books, and said that would lead to undesirable results. As an illustration, he instanced the attempt to replace the Departmental Balabodhe by a private venture, which was distinctly inferior to the former. It was highly imperative that in the lower classes we gave the pupils the very best text-books.

Mr. S. G. Sastry seconded the proposition.

Pandit Srinivasaragavachar suggested (in Kannada) certain improvements in the publications of the readers. He said there were some mistakes which should be corrected. The lessons would be more interesting to the students, if they were written in a story form. They should be revised and published after due corrections.

Mr. D. Venkataramaiya said that more than the content, the form is not uniform. Kannada books should be referred to the Chairman of the Kannada Sub-Commitee to suggest improvements in form. These books should not be thrown open to private agency at all.

Mr. M. Venkatesa Iyengar said he voted for Mr. B. Venkatanaranappa's proposition though he did not agree with his arguments. These books should be revised and graded under the guidance of a Central Agency, *i.e.*, the Department, and should not be given to private agencies, which question might be taken up later on.

Mr. K. H. Ramaiya wanted the matter to be referred to the Committee to be appointed.

The proposition was accepted and was left to the Department to take action in the matter.

VIII. Mr. B. Venkatanaranappa's second proposition:—

"That the Director of Public Instruction be requested to employ in his office a competent full time Editor and proof-reader who is recognised to be a scholar in Kannada and who possesses a good working knowledge of English."

In support of his proposition, Mr. B. Venkatanaranappa gave the example of a prescribed text that had not been properly prepared for the press and had not been printed correctly.

Mr. Shoostery seconded the proposition.

Mr. D. Venkataramaiya wanted to know what exactly were the functions of the Editor and Proof-reader.

Mr. R. Narasimhachar said that he had served as Kannada Translator in the Educational Office and used to edit text-books. He condemned the proposition.

Miss C. E. Parsons suggested that the Kannada Translator should be added on to the Board of five proposed.

Mr. D. Venkataramaiya agreed.

Mr. M. Venkatesa Iyengar objected to an Editor being forced to go through the proofs

Mr. B. Venkatanaranappa failed to understand the undesirability.

Mr. M. Venkatesa Iyengar argued that it was very wrong to ask the Editor of the type proposed to read the proofs. The Editor could give the correct copy, and somebody else should read the proofs. He also depricated the Editor being given arbitrary powers in regard to standardisation and said that standardisation was not fair to the world of authors.

Mr. H. K. Veerabasavaiah pointed out that the Proof Reader could not know all the subjects on the face of the earth, and should not sit in judgment over experts.

Mr. S. G. Sastry feared that the Editor might spoil the beautiful books written by other authors.

Mr. B. Puttaiya suggested that an editor should be appointed, separate from the Proof-reader. A Committee might be entrusted with the work of suggesting improvements in the form.

Mr. K. H. Ramaiya thought that an Editor in the Department of Public Instuction was very necessary.

The proposition was modified as follows, and passed as amended :—

"That the Director of Public Instruction be requested to employ in his office a competent full time editor, who is recognised to be a scholar in Kannada, and a Kannada proof reader who possess a good working knowledge of English."

IX. Mr. B. Venkatanaranappa's third proposition :—

"That before finally recommending any book to be prescribed as a text-book by any sub-committee, it should be made obligatory that at least one of its members shall certify (1) that he has read the book from beginning to end and (2) that it is free from objectionable or undesirable passages and (3) that it is of the required standard;" and said that a certificate of the kind that was made in the Girls' Education Sub-Committee report should be made in the proceedings of all the other sub-committees.

The President said that it was being done in all cases.

The Proposition was not pressed.

X. The fourth proposition of Mr. B. Venkatanaranappa :—

"That for the Middle School and the Lower Secondary Examinations, the practice of prescribing a fresh text-book every year, in languages be given up and that instead suitable readers be prescribed for a definite number of years."

Mr. B. Venkatanaranappa introduced the proposition with the following remarks :—

Mr. B. Venkatanaranappa introducing his proposition failed to understand the need for a new text every year, and considered that the retention of the same book would be a great help to failed candidates.

Mr. Shoostery seconded the proposition.

Mr. D. Venkataramaiya pointed out that so far as the English books were concerned, the present practice was to prescribe one book for a peroid of three years continuously in the non-examination going classes both in the Middle and High Schools, and in the case of examination-going classes, the books are changed year after year.

Mr. K. H. Ramaiya was in favour of the books being continued for a peroid of three years. The books in Kannada, Urdu and English should be prescribed for three years at least continuously.

Mr. Davud considered that students would have a wider knowledge by reading different books. Hence it was better to change the books every year.

Mr. R. Narasimha Char said that, with regard to the examination, the books should be changed.

Mr. S. G. Sastry opposed the proposition, as it would cause hardship to the world of authors.

Mr. B. Puttaiya considered that readers would give sufficient variety.

Mr. R. Jagannatha Rao pointed out that this question in both its aspects was considered by the Local Examinations Board and as a result, it was resolved that the text book should be changed every year.

Mr. H. K. Veerabasavaiya said that there should be scope to change the text-book every year. For the examination going classes, there should be a change every year in the text-books in Kannada if not in English.

Mr. B. Venkatanaranappa in replying said that a book of selections might be prescribed and portions may be set for each year. He amended his proposition, so as to read "That it be a recommendation of the Text Book Committee to the Local Examinations Board that for the Middle School and the Lower Secondary Examinations, the practice of prescribing a fresh text-book every year in languages be given up and that instead a suitable book of selections be prescribed for a definite number of years."

The proposition as modified was passed.

The Committee adjourned for lunch at 2-45 and reassembled at 3-30 P.M.

* * * * *

XI. The subject that was placed for consideration by the T. B. C. was "The desirability and the feasibility of bringing under the control of the Education Department, the use by school children of "Notes" and "Made Easies" published by private agencies on almost all the subjects prescribed for the several classes up to and including the fourth year Middle School Class."

Mr. B. Venkatanaranappa placed on the table a number of such notes, and pointed out the manifest evils of their use, and asked the Committee to deal with the situation.

The President asked for suggestions to grapple with the evil.

Sri Srirangamma suggested that (1) teachers were not doing their duty properly and recommended the appointment of efficient teachers; and that (2) the head masters should be asked to discourage the students from using these notes.

Mr. R. Jagannatha Rao demurred to the suggestion that the evil was the result of the inefficiency of teachers.

Mr. B. Puttaiya suggested that these writers should obtain permission of the Department before publishing the notes.

The President doubted if the suggestions were practicable. Notes could be written elsewhere and imported.

Mr. H. K. Veerabasavaiya feared that no control was possible over private publishers.

Dr. M. A. Sampathkumaran suggested that the department might supply the schools themselves with as many number of copies of text books, as there were students, and ask the teachers to purchase the books directly from the Depot and so prevent the attempt to force the notes on buyers of text-books.

The President considered this would affect the sales by agencies.

Mr. Venkatasubbaiya suggested the inclusion of brief notes in the text-books themselves.

Dr. K. N. Kini pointed out that parents were a party to purchase of notes. In some cases, parents encouraged their boys to purchase notes, so that they might pass the examination easily. The Department could only make strict rules that our teachers should not be a party to the purchasing of these notes, by the students.

Mr. K. H. Ramaiya asked why the Co-opertive Societies should not sell the text-books instead of agents.

Mr. D. Venkataramaiya pointed out that some of these notes-writers were teachers themselves, which should be prevented. What could be done was to request the Head Masters and teachers to prevent the purchase of notes by their students. The Departmental officers could, during their inspection discourage the use of notes.

Mr. Kalami asked if the Government could not pass a Law to check the publication of such books. There was some such law to prevent books of an objectionable kind published overseas being imported into India.

Mr. H. K. Veerabasavaiya said that if there was a publication, which was against public policy, only that could be prevented from being used by the public.

The President here requested Mr. B. Venkatanaranppa to give his suggestions.

Mr. B. Venkatanaranappa replied that the Department should take the earliest opportunity to improve our text-books. It must purchase a copy of each of the notes and keep it in the Educational Library, and the Department should supply these notes for the Examiner. The examiners should be acquainted with these notes and so set their questions as to defeat the objects of the writers of those notes. Another thing that might be done was to publish a set of notes by the Department for teachers' use along with the Departmental books.

The President said that the question might be taken up for consideration at the next meeting, and the Committee meeting came to a close.

N. S. SUBBA RAO